



March 2021



My name is Nicole Disotell, and I am a Math Instructional coach for Lafayette Parish. I have worked as a math educator for 17 years. In my current role, I support instruction in my system by helping teachers understand our curriculum, plan for instruction, and adapt to the shifts from in-person to virtual learning this year. In my work with amazing teachers every day, I witness the value of continuous learning and innovation to support research-based best practices.

This year, I have had the privilege of working on the math resources developed as part of [Accelerate: Louisiana's Statewide Tutoring Strategy](#). [Accelerate Math](#) is an innovative just-in-time tutoring model that allows more time for on-grade level content to be taught during math class by ensuring students are ready to access the same content as every other learner. At the beginning of my teaching career, I viewed remediation as the best way to address students' unfinished learning. I would go back and re-teach when it was necessary, but this cost me valuable time. Acceleration is a more proactive approach that focuses on preparing students to access on-grade-level learning through addressing prerequisite knowledge just before it is needed in class. I have seen the benefits of this model firsthand with my own children, who are in the public school system. When seeing them struggle with on-grade-level mathematics, I helped them become proficient in aligned previous skills that would allow for mastery of the on-grade-level content being taught.

Just-in time instruction leads students to mastery of the on-grade-level content that is being taught. Our main focus as educators is to give students a high-quality education in order for them to be successful in life. Accelerate does that by giving all students an equal opportunity to succeed. I am very excited to be a contributor to this project since it will not only impact my students, but also my own children. The [Accelerate Tutoring program](#) is a tool that puts high-quality resources at teachers fingertips to accelerate all students' mathematical understanding.

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TEACHER LEADER SUMMIT

Teacher Leader Summit (In-person)

[Registration](#) for the in-person Teacher Leader Summit is underway. All access codes turn off on **April 13** preventing further registration.

The early bird ticket window closed on March 1.

- Purchasing an early bird ticket offered reduced pricing and first access to session scheduling.
- The session schedule and app will be released to early bird ticket holders on **April 7**.

The regular registration window will run from March 2-April 12.

- The session schedule and app will be released to regular ticket holders on **April 9**.

New this year, registrants have the opportunity to share graphics across their social media platforms to celebrate attending the 2021 Teacher Leader Summit. The graphics can be found in the “I’m Going Passes” section of the [Summit Materials page](#). Be sure to use #LATeacherLeaders in your posts.

More information regarding the in-person Teacher Leader Summit can be found in the [Overview](#).

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series

To maximize the delivery of content and educator development, The Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will take place from **June 1-11**, and sessions will be accessed remotely. The format will be similar to the Virtual Series offered during spring 2020.

- There will be a max overall registration limit of 8,000.
- The Department is not allocating seats. Registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Paid ticket holders of the Teacher Leader Summit in-person event will receive an access code allowing them to register for and participate in the Virtual Series at no additional cost.

- Each code will be one-time use and must be used only by the original ticket holder. Codes are not transferable.

Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit: The Virtual Series will open in April. Tickets are inclusive of all days of the event. The [Content Delivery Plan](#) outlines which content will be presented virtually in comparison to the content being delivered in-person.

Ticket Type	Purchasing Window	Ticket Price
Early Bird Registration	April 1-25	\$50
Regular Registration	April 26-sell out	\$65

The session schedule and app for the Virtual Series will be released to early bird ticket holders on May 10 and May 12 for regular registrants.

Please contact LDOEvents@la.gov with questions.

ELA RESOURCES

Teacher Leader Summit Preview: ELA

The Teacher Leader Summit In-Person and Virtual Series will provide ELA sessions focused on distance learning and addressing unfinished learning and the needs of diverse learners within the context of high-quality materials. Sessions will be led by Teacher Leaders and Department staff as well as vendors such as CommonLit, Amplify, LearnZillion, Edu 20/20, Open Up Resources, SchoolKit, Teaching Lab, Great Minds, XanEdu, Acadience Learning, EL Education, and American Reading Company.

Please contact ELAGuidebooks@la.gov with any questions.

Accelerate ELA Tutoring Resources Available Now!

The Department has released [Accelerate ELA](#), a suite of virtual ELA tutoring resources. These resources are built to ensure that students are able to access grade level text. Each grade-level includes links to resources that support students in building knowledge, vocabulary, or foundational skills. The initial launch of materials include teacher and student-facing Foundational Skills supports for grades 3-5 and knowledge packs in grades 3-8 which align to some ELA Guidebooks units.

Initial resources, including the [ELA Kick-off Webinar](#), have been posted. As you begin to explore and use these new tools, please provide [feedback](#) for improvement.

Please contact ELAGuidebooks@la.gov with questions.

Applications are Open for Accelerate ELA Content Developers

The Department has opened [applications](#) for expert pre-kindergarten through high-school ELA educators interested in building out additional [Accelerate ELA](#) resources. [Applications](#) must be submitted by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 12**. Work will begin this spring and continue through the 2021-2022 school year. Compensation will be provided.

Please contact ELAGuidebooks@la.gov with questions.

MATH RESOURCES

Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Math

The Teacher Leader Summit Department-led math sessions will focus on understanding instructional decision making both in the moment and over longer time periods to address unfinished learning. Limited vendor and teacher-led sessions will also be offered.

The Teacher Leader Summit Virtual Series will provide sessions focused on supporting distance learning and addressing unfinished learning and the needs of diverse learners within the context of high-quality materials. Sessions will be led by Great Minds, Illustrative Math Certified Partners, Ready Math, SpringBoard Math, Jump Math and Agile Mind. The Department will provide the same sessions presented at the in-person summit. Limited teacher-led sessions will also be available.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with any questions.

Accelerate Math Tutoring Resources Available Now!

The Department has released [Accelerate Math](#), a suite of virtual math tutoring resources. These resources include two hours of tutoring content per week for a series of 15 weeks. Content is designed to accelerate students to readiness for in-class instruction for grades K-8 and is directly tied to Eureka Math for grades K-8 and Illustrative Math for grades 6-8. Resources are in Google slides format and provide aligned Desmos activities, when available, and links to digital manipulatives. All initial resources, including the [Math Kick-off Webinar](#), have now been posted. As you begin to explore and use these new tools, please provide [feedback](#) for improvement.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Applications are Open for Accelerate Math Content Developers

The Department has opened [applications](#) for expert pre-kindergarten through high-school math educators interested in building out additional [Accelerate Math](#) resources. [Applications](#) must be submitted by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 12**. Work will begin this spring and continue through the 2021-2022 school year. Compensation will be provided.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

SCIENCE RESOURCES

Teacher Leader Summit Preview: Science

The 2021 Teacher Leader Summit will offer science sessions focused on supporting distance learning and addressing unfinished learning and the needs of diverse learners within the context of [high-quality materials](#). Both the in-person Teacher Leader Summit and Virtual Series will include Department- and teacher-led sessions that focus on instructional planning for formative assessment and supporting students during the unit launch.

The Virtual Series will also include sessions to support high-quality curriculum implementation for Amplify, Great Minds PhD Science, IQWST, OpenSciEd and inquiryHub Biology.

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES

STEM Teacher Micro-Credentialing Opportunity for High School Educators

The Department has received an Education Innovation and Research grant from the U.S. Department of Education to research and develop a new mechanism to provide high-quality professional support and one of the nation's first credentialing systems to recognize the expertise of STEM teachers. The Department is currently recruiting Louisiana high school teachers to be a part of this development and study. This opportunity is open to teachers who are currently teaching or plan to teach coursework within the Pre-Engineering or Digital Design and Emergent Media high school [STEM Pathways](#). In addition to a stipend for participation, teachers selected to participate in the study will:

- receive additional support on the execution of best practices for facilitating project-based STEM learning;
- create a virtual portfolio to reflect on their practices, analyze and critique lessons they have taught, examine and try new teaching practices, and use data driven instruction to maximize student outcomes; and
- have opportunities to strengthen expertise through collaborative online cohorts and individual feedback from experienced STEM educators.

Interested educators should complete [this brief survey](#). Please visit the [research project information page](#) for additional information or contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

Apply to Become a Louisiana Environmental Educator Advisor

Are you an educator who is passionate about supporting environmental literacy? The Department is seeking a diverse group of talented Louisiana educators from a variety of roles and subject areas to contribute to the development of a set of K-12 Environmental Principles and Concepts and Learning Progressions. These Environmental Principles and Concepts are intended to be high level "big ideas" that will inform standards-based instruction and inspire rich and relevant opportunities to coherently build environmental literacy for students. Selected Louisiana Environmental Education Advisors will have the

opportunity to:

- assist in the development the Environmental Principles and Concepts,
- attend the Teacher Leader Summit FOR FREE for special work sessions, and
- be ambassadors for environmental literacy across the state.

Educators interested in serving as an Environmental Educator Advisor should [submit an application](#) by **March 12**.

Please contact environmentaleducation@la.gov with questions.

Louisiana Aspiring Principal Fellowship

In an effort to support the development of school leaders across the state, the Department will be launching a pilot cohort for aspiring principals. The Aspiring Principal Fellowship (APF) will prepare individuals that already possess their EDL1 certification with the critical knowledge and skills needed to serve in the principal role. This selective statewide fellowship is rooted in Louisiana's five priorities:

1. Ensure every student is on track to a professional career, college degree, or service.
2. Remove barriers and create equitable, inclusive learning experiences for all children.
3. Provide the highest quality teaching and learning environment.
4. Develop and retain a diverse, highly effective educator workforce.
5. Cultivate high-impact systems, structures, and partnerships

APF cohort participants will meet monthly (Orientation at Teacher Leader Summit, commencing monthly in October) and explore best practices with regional experts, school visits, theory, and reflection. Participants will exit this 12-day fellowship with a robust leadership portfolio, the guidance of Louisiana's most successful principals, individualized coaching, and a strong network of lifelong colleagues.

The 2021-2022 pilot cohort will be selected accordingly and represent a cross-section of aspiring leaders throughout the state. Applicants must hold a current EDL1 certification in Louisiana. School systems need to cover the costs of the \$2,500 tuition for presenters and materials, as well as travel costs. Interested candidates should complete the [Aspiring Principal Fellowship Application](#) no later than **March 31**.

For more information, please attend or invite potential candidates to attend an informational webinar.

- **Webinar Date and Time:** March 8 at 3:30 p.m.
- **Webinar Link:** <https://ldoe.zoom.us/j/98559739337>
- **Join by Phone:** 1-470-250-9358
- **Meeting ID:** 985 5973 9337

Please contact LouisianaLeaders@la.gov for more information.

BESE Tuition Program for Teachers-Applications for Summer and Fall 2021 Open Now!

The [BESE Tuition Program for Teachers](#) provides tuition funding for selected classroom teachers to enroll in courses at regionally accredited colleges or universities in Louisiana. Online applications for coursework funding for the summer and fall 2021 semesters are open now through **April 9**. Program details, as well as a link to the application, can be found on the [Continuing Opportunities for Educators page](#).

For questions about the BESE Tuition Program for Teachers, visit the [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) or contact STEM@la.gov.

Louisiana Farm to School Program: Seeds to Success

The **Louisiana Farm to School Program** recently launched *Seeds to Success*, which offers classroom growing materials, as well as engaging educational materials linked to Louisiana School Science Standards that can be used in both classroom and virtual learning. Lessons, activities and practical growing information for school gardens are conveniently located on the [Seeds to Success](#) website. The Louisiana Farm to School Program is a partnership between the Louisiana Department of Education and LSU AgCenter.

Last month, Seeds to Success distributed seed packets to over 1,500 schools across the state. Louisiana **teachers may request additional seed packets and other free gardening materials by** creating an account on the [Seeds to Success](#) website.

Please contact melissa.campbell@la.gov with questions.

EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

PAEMST Nominations and Applications for 2021

The [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching \(PAEMST\)](#) honor outstanding mathematics, science, and STEM teachers. Awardees serve as models for their colleagues, inspiration to their communities, and leaders in the improvement of mathematics and science education. Presidential Awardees, in addition to joining an active network of educators throughout the nation, receive a certificate signed by the President, a trip to Washington, D.C. for recognition events and professional development opportunities, and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation. Teachers can apply or be [nominated](#) by someone else by **March 1**. Additionally, they must complete the full [application](#) due by **April 1**.

Please contact Jean May-Brett (jam05@bellsouth.net) or Jan Graff (jlgraff@bellsouth.net) with questions.

CONTACT US

For questions related to...	Contact:
AP Courses and Exams Contact	collegereadiness@la.gov
Assessments and Related Supports	assessment@la.gov
Collaborations	districtsupport@la.gov
Compass	compass@la.gov
Educational Leader Licensure Policy Update	believeandprepare@la.gov
ELA Guidebooks	elaguidebooks@la.gov
Financial Aid Assistance	ldefinancial@la.gov
Graduation Requirements	highschoolacademics@la.gov
Instructional Support and Resources including Leap 360 and Eagle	classroomsupporttoolbox@la.gov
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PD Vendor Guide	louisianacurriculumreview@la.gov
Pupil Progressions	ppp@la.gov
Registration for the Teacher Leader Summit	ldoeevents@la.gov
STEM	STEM@la.gov
Teacher Certification	certification@la.gov
Teacher Leaders, Content Leaders, Mentor Teachers, and Teacher Leader Advisors	louisianateacherleaders@la.gov